

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00831 080621Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 IO-14 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /100 W

-----054744 082049Z /61

R 071510Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 838

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ SS, OAU, GB

SUBJ: OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO ON SAHARA SUMMIT AND SECRETARY-
GENERAL ELECTION

1. DURING COURSE PRESS INTERVIEW APRIL 6, OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO PRESENTED INTER ALIA HIS VERSION EVENTS LEADING WITHDRAWAL INVITATION HOLD WESTERN SAHARA SPECIAL SUMMIT AT LIBREVILLE. BONGO CRITICIZED "CERTAIN DELEGATIONS" AT TRIPOLI WHO HAD THE AUDACITY TO EXAMINE AND DISPUTE FIGURES IN HIS SPECIAL SUMMIT PROPOSAL WHICH HE HAD ADDRESSED TO THE OAU CHIEFS OF STATE-- NOT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. NOT ONLY DID THIS VIOLATE OAU PRECEDURAL RULES LAMENTED BONGO, IT DOMONSTRATED THAT THE OAU HAD NO WILL TO SETTLE THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM. BY CITING GABON'S HIGH FIGURE FOR HOSTING THE SPECIAL SUMMIT, CERTAIN FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE JUST MAKING EXCUSES BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO BONGO, OAU CHIEFS OF STATE AT LIBREVILLE SUMMIT HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE ZAMBIA \$8.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO COVER COST OF SPECIAL SUMMIT. GABON HAD ASKED A HALF MILLION DOLLARS LESS, HE SAID.

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2. ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE ELECTION OF THE NEXT OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL, BONGO TOOK THE HIGH ROAD. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE AFRICAN PRESS FOCUS ON THE "REAL" PROBLEMS FACING THE OAU SUCH AS THE WESTERN SAHARA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA RATHER THAN RELEGATING THEM TO SECONDARY ATTENTION BECAUSE OF EXCITEMENT CONCERNING THE ELECTION. TIENKEN

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NNN

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